

## ABSTRACT

A method for sensing the state of an eye of a subject comprises measuring light reflected from an ocular surface and comparing the measured light to a reference. A method for treating an eye of a subject comprises sensing the state of the eye as described above, and controlling whether a substance is delivered to the eye whereby the substance is so delivered only when the eye is sensed to be open. A device for sensing the state of an eye comprises a light source that directs light to an ocular surface of a subject, and a sensor for measuring light reflected from the ocular surface. An apparatus for treating an eye of a subject comprises a device for sensing the state of an eye as described above, an applicator for delivering a substance to the eye, and a control system that permits delivery of the substance when the sensing device detects that the eye is open but prevents delivery of the substance when the sensing device detects that the eye is closed.